



# GULL

BULLETIN

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**NOVEMBER MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 9th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

Miss Lorient M. V. Lamoureux has returned from an extended trip across the continent, with her robin "Cheer," and she will be with us at this meeting, to give the members more of her interesting "Anecdotes of Bird Nature." Visitors will be made welcome.

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**NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP** will be taken on Sunday, November 12th, to the University Campus, Berkeley. San Francisco members take 8:40 a. m. Key Route boat, transfer to "Berkeley" train at the mole and ride to end of line at University and Shattuck Avenues, where party will form upon arrival of train at 9:20 a. m. East Bay members may reach this point by either College, Telegraph, Shattuck or Grove cars. Bring lunch and canteens.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE OCTOBER MEETING:** The sixty-ninth regular meeting of the Association was held on October 12th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Carl R. Smith, Acting Secretary; sixteen members and fourteen guests in attendance.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, which is reproduced hereinafter, on the relations of the larger and more predatory gulls to other bird life. A discussion of this subject, inspired by observations on our recent trip to the Farallones, resulted in a determination to investigate the facts as to the numbers of the various species of bird on the islands and Mr. Lastreto undertook to secure data which might form the basis for future action by the Association.

The question of oil upon our ocean waters was likewise discussed and Dr. Evermann kindly consented to advise the Association as to developments in this connection at the coming Pan-Pacific Conference.

Following the business meeting, Mr. C. B. Lastreto, Corresponding Secretary, gave a most interesting account of his extended tour, down the west coast of Colombia to Buenaventura; thence by railroad, steamboats, muleback, up and over the continental divide, to Bogota and finally down the Magdalena river to the Caribbean Sea and home. He told of turtles floating on the ocean and of birds perched upon the turtles; of the extinction of the *sopelote*

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buzzard in the Buenaventura district; of swallows, flycatchers, swifts, plover, woodpeckers, terns, stilts, bitterns, large and small blue herons, night herons, egrets, snowy herons and roseate spoonbills in trees. Present trade routes and possible future modifications through railroad construction, were described. Favorable comment was made upon native railroad construction and operation, but it would be gross exaggeration to state that Mr. Lastreto advocated the expansion of muleback routes over mountain trails, while travel by steamer along rivers among shifting sand bars was something to defy all calculations of time of arrival at destination.

The evening was quite too short to permit covering the subject and the lecturer's difficulty lay in the selection of material from the mass at his disposal, but those present thoroughly enjoyed what he was able to say.

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After the meeting, the Board of Directors convened and elected to membership Mr. W. A. Bourne, of Berkeley.

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### ARE GULLS TOO WELL PROTECTED?

A letter from T. GILBERT PEARSON, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, October 3, 1922.

I have just read with very great interest in THE GULL, (September, 1922), an account of the recent trip of the Audubon Association of the Pacific to the Farallon Islands. I am impressed especially by your remarks regarding the destructiveness of the gulls in taking the eggs of murres and of another equally interesting species. The increasing number of gulls in North America presents a problem to which we are certainly going to have to give serious consideration very soon. There was a time, especially along the Atlantic Coast, when their numbers were vastly reduced by the activities of the millinery hunters and the professional eggers.

As quickly as the Model Law, advocated and pushed by the Audubon Society, was enacted by the various states along the Atlantic Seaboard, we began the practice of employing guards to look after the colonies of gulls, terns and other water birds. The Herring Gull and Laughing Gull have enormously increased, and of late years the complaints of their depredations on other birds have been increasingly voluminous. I personally visited large numbers of our colonies, and during the last two seasons sent a trained ornithologist, Arthur H. Norton, among the islands on the coast of Maine to gather available data regarding the relationship between gulls and their smaller allies, the terns. Some of our more popular tern colonies have been absolutely depopulated, the birds being driven away by the gulls who in turn occupied their islands.

You may be interested in knowing that, after consulting informed observers in many regions, and after asking and securing the advice of the government officials, represented by the Biological Survey, our Board of Directors last spring authorized me to discontinue the guarding of gull colonies along the Atlantic Coast and about the Great Lakes. We have not gone so far as to seek to destroy the gulls, nor even to advocate that they should be destroyed, but we have reached the point where we do not feel justified in expending funds for their further protection.

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I might add that during the months of May and June I visited a number of colonies of water birds in Holland and England, and everywhere I was told that the increase of Black-headed Gulls and Herring Gulls in western Europe had become a serious menace to other water birds breeding in the vicinity of their colonies. I found that some of the staunchest bird protectors in these countries were of the opinion that the gulls, having been protected for so many years, had increased to such an extent that they jeopardized the interests of other wild bird life.

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### PUBLIC SHOOTING GROUND — GAME REFUGE BILL

Senate Bill 1452

House Bill 5823

Consideration of this bill will probably be resumed by Congress during December next. It deserves the careful attention and earnest support of every conservationist, and it needs all the help it can secure. In brief, the bill

Requires Federal License for everyone hunting migratory birds, at a charge of \$1.00 per annum.

Apportions not more than 10% of collections to meet cost of issuance of licenses, etc.

Apportions not less than 45% of collections for purchase, equipment, rental, maintenance and operation of lands suitable for shooting grounds and refuges.

Apportions not less than 45% for expense of enforcement of Migratory Bird Treaty and Laws.

Appropriates \$50,000 for initial expenses, this sum to be returned to Treasury out of license collections, in five equal annual payments.

Prescribes penalties for violations.

It *does not interfere* with the issuance of State licenses, but will probably stimulate applications for them.

A. S. KIBBE.

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### BITS OF CHEER

Chief E. W. Nelson, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, during a very brief sojourn in the Bay District, recently, furnished items of information which will interest our members:

The new tariff bill prohibits the importation of egret and bird-of-paradise plumage, and prescribes confiscation and other penalties therefor.

Malheur Lake has been saved from drainage and the destruction of marshy habitat for migratory birds, through adjustments reached between the Federal government and the State authorities of Oregon. The lake will be preserved and only the excess water used for irrigation of some sixty-three thousand acres of agricultural lands.

The deposit of oil upon the waters of the ocean and bays has created a situation even more serious on the Atlantic Coast than on the Pacific, and steps have been taken to secure an international conference in the hope of effecting some remedy, with due consideration for all interests involved.



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While some fifteen thousand eagles have been slain under the Alaskan bounty law, such activities have abated greatly and no permanent damage has yet resulted, so vast were the numbers of these birds.



Clarke Nutcrackers are again visiting the coast. Four of these interesting birds were seen on Sunday, October 22d, on the west shoulder of Mt. Tamalpais, about a half-mile from Rock Spring at an elevation of about 2,000 feet. As they are generally associated with cross-bills, we may also expect to see some of the latter as well.

Dr. H. C. Bryant advises that golden-crowned kinglets are appearing this year in some numbers. Watch for them, too.



OCTOBER FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, October 15th, to Lake Merced. The day was cool and the sky overcast, giving promise of rain, which apparently created such apprehensions that the party was the smallest that has ever attended this usually very popular trip.

The usual route was followed, half-way around the first lake, then skirting the westerly and southerly shores of the large lake, and out through Daly City. The party consisted of five members, Miss Cheeseman, Mrs. Kibbe, Messrs. Bourne, Kibbe and Thomas; two guests, Mrs. F. S. Buckley and Mr. I. M. Parry. Seven in all.

Excellent views of all birds were obtained, although the bittern was the most elusive of the lot.

On both bay and lake were found: western and eared grebes; western and California gulls. On the bay, Heermann gull and Brandt cormorant. On the rock, near Goat Island light, a Farallon cormorant. In the lake district, pied-billed grebe, mallards, scaup, white-winged scoter and ruddy duck; bittern, great blue and night herons; coots, kildeer, sharp-shinned, red-tailed and sparrow hawks; red-shafted flicker, Anna hummer, black phoebe, bi-colored blackbird and meadowlark; linnet, green-backed goldfinch, Nuttall, song, golden-crowned and fox sparrows; San Francisco towhee, California shrike, Audubon warbler and salt marsh yellowthroat: Vigors and tule wrens, chickadee and bush-tit. Thirty-nine species in all.

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## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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